

# The Catholic Layman's Duties

THE MOST REV. HENRY MOELLER, D.D.

**H**ISTORY relates that some ninety years ago, a Scotch Presbyterian who had serious doubts about his religion, consulted a Catholic priest and asked him: "If I become a Catholic, what will be my position in the Church? I know what my duty is in the Presbyterian church, and I would like to know what would be my status in the Catholic Church?"

"Your question," replied the priest, is easily answered. "The position of a layman in the Church is twofold: he kneels before the altar—that is one position; and he sits before the pulpit—that is the other; and there is no other possible position."

This brief statement, which illustrates one view of my subject, cannot, of course, be taken as furnishing an adequate and complete definition of the status of a Catholic layman of the present day in the Church. To begin with, he is always being invited, and is in duty bound to assume another very important duty in regard to the Church, namely, that of putting his hand into his pocket to furnish the money necessary to meet the thousand and one imperative demands, incidental to the present circumstances of Catholics in the Church.

But this is not all. He must look not only to his own spiritual welfare by worshiping God before the altar, by listening heedfully to the Word of God as he takes his place among the Faithful, gathered around the pulpit; not only must he give of his means to foster works of

charity and religion, but he must also, as far as he can, interest himself in promoting the spiritual work of the Church. Now, there are many ways in which the laity can laudably assist in the Church's mission, ways that are well known to you. They are, however, lost sight of frequently and hence it will be profitable to restate and to emphasize them.

I would urge you, if you desire to serve the Church and deserve well of her, to do your duty faithfully as citizens. This ready compliance of yours will undoubtedly redound to the glory and prestige of the Church, and will strengthen her beneficent influence. Oh, how much good can an American citizen accomplish! In many countries all power is in the hands of a few; not so in our beloved country, where every citizen has something to say; every one can take his proper share in public affairs; in a word, the rights, privileges and duties of citizenship are practically extended to all and for the benefit of all. Yet the citizenship under the Stars and Stripes, however good and desirable, has its lurking dangers.

I shall not speak of the danger of a blind party-spirit; nor of the danger of being governed by a numerical majority alone, nor the danger of being unduly influenced by eloquent but unscrupulous orators; nor of the danger of acting from mercenary motives; I pass by these ugly dangers and call attention to the insidious danger!—Alas too prevalent!—of not having in view the spiritual, the moral and the social betterment of the whole community. This is also the exalted aim of the Church, and should be the chief object of every Catholic. It is not enough to have a correct idea of citizenship, but it must be exercised wisely. It avails nothing to have right

views and sublime ideals, if we do not steadily bend every energy to put them into practice.

We want men with true ideas of authority and liberty, with true ideas about education, with ideas about the Church and her ministers; with hearts that can feel for, and hands that are ready to help, their less fortunate brethren; men of prudence as well as zeal; men who have enthusiasm but whose enthusiasm is controlled and disciplined by knowledge; men who are ready to work for the cause in public life without any thought of reward or return—these are the men we want to lead the way. Such men bring honor to themselves, and their lives attract and draw others, soften prejudice and smooth the way for the Church's greater progress and increase.

I would, in the next place, strongly urge co-operation between laity and clergy in parish and diocesan affairs. The subject, to which I am calling your attention, is a precarious one; and it might truly be said that I am walking on ashes that cover a smoldering fire. There is some danger, when undue power of directing ecclesiastical affairs is placed in the hands of the laity. It may be, as has happened at times, that such power will be exercised to the detriment of the spiritual welfare of the Faithful. But just as much harm will come to the Church from the apathy and supineness on the part of the laity in this important matter. Extremes must be avoided and a happy medium followed; then all will move along smoothly.

The laity should bear in mind that the temporal interest of the parish should be subordinate to its spiritual interest. And hence, the pastor is solely in charge of the spiritual affairs, the laity, who concern themselves about

the temporalities, should be guided and controlled in their sphere of activity by their ecclesiastical superior. Thus, side by side, both will work together for the glory of God and the welfare of souls. There is no doubt that, in temporal matters, the laity, actively engaged in business and in close touch with material and financial affairs, are in a position to give prudent advice and needed help in the things that concern the material good of the parish.

Unfortunately, this helpful service is often not rendered. In many congregations all the work of the parish rests upon the priests. These are made to attend to many things, that do not strictly belong to the ministry, such as raising money for church and school, promoting the social welfare of the parish, taking a leading part in various organizations for the general betterment. These activities are good, commendable, praiseworthy, and I will say, necessary; but they do not absolutely require a priest for the regular control and orderly management of them.

Is it not desirable that, for the good of all, the priests be relieved by the generous co-operation of the laity of the many worries incident to these matters? For they are frequently too great a strain on the priest's energy, prevent him from giving the necessary attention to the spiritual good of the parish, and often take the soul out of his spiritual life. The steady help given by a loyal laity will, therefore, be not only for the good of the parish, but also for the spiritual benefit of the pastor.

The net result of this co-operation will also be most beneficial under another aspect. Such united effort will bring the clergy and laity more closely together, and will give better opportunities for mutual understanding, for greater sympathy and for nobler reverence. The com-

mon work will produce a community of interests and aims, and will tend to unity and harmony, so important for the peace and welfare of the parish. The laity will, therefore, feel the pleasure of contributing to all this, and the clergy, freed from care and anxiety, will be able to devote themselves with greater heart to more spiritual things of the parish.

In the third place, I strongly urge you to give your personal service in parish, in charitable and in social work. It cannot be denied that many well-to-do persons imagine that they have fully done their duty towards the parish and the community when they send in liberal contributions for parochial, charitable and social works. This generosity is truly commendable; but, if these persons who, as a rule, are in comfortable circumstances, would condescend to give also their personal service, they would become the medium of many blessings to society. Among these benefits I would mention especially that they will create a better understanding between the two large classes in society—the rich and the poor.

It is true beyond all doubt, or cavil, that there is a rather strained feeling today between those who live in comfort and those who have to struggle for every scrap they eat. This yawning abyss is becoming wider and deeper, day by day, and threatens to subvert all in a dreadful catastrophe. The imperative thing to do is to bring these two classes closer together; and this great good the rich can effect by generously giving their personal services to the alleviation of those who are in dire poverty or sore distress.

## Lent in War-time

THE RIGHT REV. CORNELIUS VAN DE VEN, D.D.

**P**ENANCE is the sinner's only hope for salvation. Fasting and mortification subdue the unruly passions of the flesh, elevate the mind to higher things and build the Christian character. Self-restraint is essential for all virtue and is a vital part of the Christian life. We should, therefore, most willingly comply with the Lenten laws of holy Church in order to train ourselves to obedience and penance and self-discipline, and to be conformed to our dying Saviour on the Cross.

In condescension to our weakness, Mother Church has in the course of time relaxed much of her former discipline, and, as may be seen in this year's Lenten regulations, the rules of fasting and abstinence have been mitigated again by the new canon law, which was recently published. The very fact that the Church is so considerate in the demands she makes of us should make us all the more willing to observe them to the very best of our ability. Those whose age or feeble health or laborious work require ample nourishment are allowed to take the usual amount of food lest their health be impaired. The other law, however, of abstinence from flesh meat on certain days, implies much less hardship than that of fasting and no one should seek exemption from it except for actual sickness or other very special reasons. Some Catholics in the poorer country-districts excuse themselves from the law of abstinence on the plea that no other suitable food can be procured to take

the place of meat; but it seems to us that, with a little foresight and good will, this difficulty could be easily overcome, and it should be borne in mind that a little difficulty or hardship is no excuse, because penance and self-denial is the very object of the law. We see at present the whole of our American people willingly submitting to meatless days and other restrictions demanded by the exigencies of these times, and should not we Christians be much more willing to undergo a slight privation through the higher motives of religion?

The old and venerable practice of the Friday abstinence should be particularly dear to us, and neither human respect nor any other selfish or unworthy motives should ever tempt us to break it, since it is a loving remembrance of our dear Saviour's bitter sufferings endured for us on that day and a constant outward profession of our Catholic Faith. Those that shirk from this slight penance are indeed most unworthy Christians and "enemies of the Cross of Christ," and those Catholics who persistently violate this important precept virtually deny their Faith, separating themselves from Christ's faithful sheep who hear His voice, and giving grave scandal to others, especially to members of their own household. No home is a Catholic home where this law is not observed, and most grievous is the sin of those parents who scandalize their children by the frequent and unlawful violation of this precept.

So far from being injurious to health, fasting and abstinence are, as a rule, most beneficial to it, whilst it is a well-known fact that most of the ills that afflict people and that shorten their days are to be traced to the opposite habit. So-called "good living" is by no means conducive to health and long life. Frugality and self-re-

straint are good for the body as well as for the soul. Self-control in all things is essential for people's well-being, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the stern necessities of the present war-time will have the good and lasting effect of bringing our people back to simpler habits of life, to plainer living, to humbler living, to less luxury and vanity in dress, to less social pride and rivalry, and to a wise moderation in all things. There is nothing more destructive to true happiness and contentedness than this foolish craving for self-indulgence, for pleasure, for vain display and wasteful extravagance. We especially ask our Catholic people to avoid, during Lent, all worldly pleasures and amusements which are so out of place at this time and so contrary to the spirit of this holy season, and even to make the children deprive themselves of certain pleasures and delicacies in order to teach them that same great lesson of self-denial and sacrifice.

Besides being a time for penance the holy season of Lent should revive and foster in us the spirit of prayer, which is the very life of the soul. Prayer is man's grandest duty and highest privilege; it lifts us up to God and brings His grace and His mercy down to us. There is no salvation without it. No sinner can be converted without prayer; no just man can persevere without its sustaining power. The man who does not pray leads a godless life; he is the prey of his passions and becomes the helpless victim of sin and vice. It is the neglect of prayer that makes us witness the deplorable sight of the decay of virtue and morality, of so many irreligious and unhappy homes and the disruption of families by discord and unfaithfulness. A prayerless home cannot be the home of peace and Christian purity. There the flower



of virtue cannot thrive. There we see no filial reverence of children for their parents, because the parents show no reverence for God. There we find not that Christian patience in trials, that Christian charity and mutual forbearance which makes all burdens light and renders the home-life sweet and happy.

We most earnestly beseech all our Catholic people to sanctify their homes by the beautiful custom of family prayer. This alone can make the home and its atmosphere Christian; it will plant religion deep in the hearts of the children and leave impressions which no time will efface. Besides your morning and evening prayers, and the Christian custom of saying grace at meals, and your other home prayers, you should make every effort to attend the Lenten services in the church, even at the cost of considerable sacrifice, to assist at Holy Mass every morning of the week, if possible, and to approach frequently the Lord's Holy Table. This is the way to sanctify Lent, to bring you nearer to God, and to secure all those spiritual benefits which God wishes to bestow on you during this time of grace.

If this penitential season is always fraught with solemn lessons and warnings, it is so more than ever at this time when God's hand weighs so heavily on us and on the world, and the future looks so dark and ominous with the things that may yet come to pass. It behooves us under the stress and uncertainty of the present crisis to turn to God in sincerity of heart, with humble penance and fervent prayer, acknowledging our sins and pleading for mercy. Let us pray that God may spare us from the dread havoc which the war has brought to other nations; let us implore the Divine help and protection for our beloved country, and let us during this fearful conflict con-

duct ourselves as good citizens as well as good Christians, cheerfully making even the heaviest sacrifices that may be demanded of us, and doing our full share of duty in all respects.

We commend especially to our people's generosity and charity those beneficent agencies which have for their object the relief of the wounded and suffering and the moral and spiritual welfare of our enlisted men. Chief among these are the Red Cross Society and those different Catholic war activities now placed under the immediate supervision of the Hierarchy, and of which the admirable work of the Knights of Columbus forms the principal part. The urgent need of surrounding our soldiers in camp and at the battle-front, with clean and wholesome influences, and especially of providing priests to minister to them and to be at their side in the face of death, is evident to all, and we wish to impress on all our people their bounden duty of aiding and supporting these beneficent works to the full extent of their means and generosity.

### The Pope's Latest Words on Peace

**I**N reply to the customary Christmas address from Cardinal Vannutelli, *doyen* of the Sacred College, the Pope, says a Reuter message, after expressing regret that for the fourth year in succession the festival of Christmas was overshadowed by war, said he felt acute sorrow that all his efforts for the reconciliation of peoples had been in vain. His Holiness, after adverting to his peace proposals, said:

"From the highest quarters some of the principal bases for an understanding had been announced. We simply took them up, inviting the heads of the belligerent States to make them their object of particular study, with the sole object of satisfying the desire which lies in the depths of the heart of everybody." Proceeding, the Pope deplored that some quarters did not deign to hear his words, while others did not spare their suspicions and calumnies, but he consoled himself with the reflection that his invitation to peace could be compared to the corn of wheat about which his Divine Master spoke: "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit." Above all, his Holiness said he was comforted by the consciousness of right, and it was his duty to continue throughout the world the mission of peace, the peacemaking of Jesus Christ.

"No obstacle or peril," he continued, "is capable of breaking my determination to fulfil this duty and exercise the right of him who represents the Prince of Peace. We do not deny that, seeing the efforts of once-flourishing nations thrown back into a paroxysm of mutual destruction, and fearing the ever-nearer suicide of European civilization, We sadly asked when and how will this dreadful tragedy have an end. The present calamity will never finish until men have returned to God with the warmest prayer from the heart. We wish to hasten the hour of this salutary return of society to the Gospel. When the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped, when the crooked shall be made straight and rough places plain, when, in one word, men and society return to God, then all flesh shall see the salvation of God, and to the poor and sorrowing will be announced the good news of peace.

"As the unbridled lust of the senses plunged once-celebrated cities into a sea of fire, so in our days public impiety and atheism, erected into a system of so-called civilization, has plunged the world into a sea of blood. To return to God it suffices to go to Bethlehem, and with the simplicity of the shepherds listen to the voice from the Divine manger. In these days we may go in the footsteps of Christ to Jerusalem. Humane councils and Divine designs have advanced together, the former subjugating the countries, the latter granting the age-long prayer of our fathers, giving back to the Christian Faith sacred places and venerated soil, where the blood of the Redeemer was poured out. Jerusalem, sacred city, blessed vision of peace, lifts to God a hymn of exultation and gratitude and love. All must see that events just accomplished in Jerusalem have a special language, which strengthens the invitation We address to the people to return to God, because in Jerusalem were blessed not those who came in the name of arms but in the Name of the Lord."

### **Some Novels for Catholic Readers**

COMPILED BY JOHN C. REVILLE, S.J.

**James, Henry:**

The American .....	Houghton, \$2.00
The Europeans .....	" \$1.50
An International Episode.....	Harper, \$1.25

"The American" is perhaps the best, certainly one of the least involved in construction and in style of the author's works. It contrasts the pride and meanness of a set of old-world aristocrats with the manhood, self-respect and good nature of a strongly-fibered American. "The Euro-

peans" registers the impressions made by Europeanized Americans on Puritan Boston. The "Episode" answers the query: "Will the English nobleman wed the fair American?"

**Janvier, Thomas Allibone:**

The Aztec Treasure House.....Harper, \$1.50

The book tells the story of the discovery by a professor of archeology, a priest and their companion of a great Aztec city miraculously hidden for over a thousand years.

**Jewett, Sarah Orne:**

Deephaven .....Houghton, \$1.25

A humorous but kindly and faithful description, after the manner of "Cranford," of the old-fashioned inhabitants of a decayed seaport town of New England.

**Johnson, Samuel:**

Rasselas .....Dutton, \$0.50

One of the first attempts at formal novel-making in English. It lacks action and movement and is rather an eloquent homily on the "Vanity of Human Wishes," an allegory rather than a story. By contact with the world, the Prince of Abyssinia learns where true peace and happiness are to be found. The style is rich but ponderous.

**Johnston, Mary:**

Cease Firing .....Houghton, \$1.50

The Long Roll..... " \$1.50

To Have and to Hold..... " \$1.50

The Confederacy and Stonewall Jackson are the heroes of the first two books, both full of the din and strife of battle. Antietam and Chancellorsville are splendidly described. The last is a romance of early Virginia (1650), a little unreal, but full of color and action.

**Johnston, Richard Malcolm:**

Old Times in Middle Georgia.....Macmillan, \$1.50

Faithful records of the social bickerings, jealousies and

religious quarrels of Georgia negroes in the first half of the nineteenth century.

**Kennedy, John Pendleton:**

Horseshoe Robinson ..... Burt, \$1.00

South Carolina during the War of Independence. The book deserves something better than the long neglect from which it has suffered.

**Keon, Miles Gerald:**

Dion and the Sybil.....Benziger, \$1.25

A spirited story of Rome under Tiberius, and at the same time a strong piece of apologetic literature. The taming of the Sejan horse, Dionysius' proof of the existence of the Divinity, and the apology of the gladiators have been too long forgotten.

**Kickham, Charles:**

Knocknagow .....Benziger, \$1.25

Here, the "Homes of Tipperary" have been described with the deepest insight and the most tender love; undoubtedly one of the most faithful transcriptions from life of the ways and manners of the Irish people at their best.

**King, Charles:**

Between the Lines.....Harper, \$1.25

The Broken Sword.....Grossett, \$0.75

Foes in Ambush.....Lippincott, \$1.25

Lanier of the Cavalry....." \$1.25

Under Fire ..... " \$1.25

Stories of military life, bright, healthy and replete with movement; varied in character and incident.

**King, Grace Elizabeth:**

Balcony Stories .....Century, \$1.25

The Pleasant Ways of Saint Médard.....Holt, \$1.40

Intimate sketches from life of the ways of the South and its people by one who knows them well.

**Kipling, Rudyard:**

Captains Courageous .....	Doubleday, \$1.50
The Jungle Book.....	" \$1.50
Kim .....	" \$1.50
Puck of Pook's Hill.....	" \$1.50
The Second Jungle Book.....	" \$1.50
Soldier Stories .....	" \$1.50
Soldiers Three .....	" \$1.50
Under the Deodars .....	" \$1.50

The first volume describes the life on the high seas of the New England fishermen and the training of a young pampered millionaire by these rude but kindly teachers. The Jungle Books present us with Mowgli, the man of the woods and the brother to the wild animals around him, and introduces to the folk-lore of India. "Kim" chronicles the wanderings of a weird little waif and of a lama through the cities of India. Kim and his lama are a strange but fascinating pair. "Puck of Pook's Hill" makes us acquainted with the secrets told by the fairy to the children he meets on the South Downs. Anglo-Indian life, startling adventures, escapes, fights, fill up the other volumes. No great ideals or principles give substantial value to these works, but they are full of "go," of action, and of a certain virility and driving force which have made them popular.

**Lawless, Emily:**

Grania .....	Smith, Elder, 3s 6d
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Life on the Arran Islands; a study in contrasts between the characters of the saintly girl, Honor, and the impulsive Grania; the author's best work, others like Maelcho and Hurrish presenting a rather gloomy view of Irish life.

**L'Ermite, Pierre:**

The Mighty Friend.....	Benziger, \$1.35
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A powerful novel, dealing with social questions. Odile and De la Ferlandière are nobly drawn.

**Lever, Charles:**

Tom Burke of Ours.....Dutton, \$1.00

The best specimen of the rollicking military novel, the scenes are laid in Ireland and later in France during the wars of the Consulate and the Empire. Austerlitz and Jena are finely described. Lever's stories bubble with gaiety and fun, but give a false impression of Irish character by insisting on what is grotesque, reckless and whimsical.

**Lincoln, Joseph:**

Cap'n Dan's Daughter.....Appleton, \$1.50

Cap'n Eri ..... " \$1.50

Extricating Obadiah ..... " \$1.50

Mary 'Gusta ..... " \$1.40

Partners of the Tide..... " \$1.50

These Cape Cod stories deserve their popularity. They are original, full of humor and deep human sympathies.

**Lytton, Edward Bulwer:**

The Last Days of Pompei.....Dutton, \$1.50

The Last of the Barons..... " \$1.50

My Novel ..... " \$1.50

The first represents Roman society under the Flavii and the first growth of Christianity; the second depicts the fierce struggles of the Wars of the Roses with Warwick as a central hero. The last volume is a review of English society in all its forms, varieties, ranks and tendencies; an overcrowded gallery of portraits. The style is at times gaudy and theatrical. The author is inclined to sensationalism and sentimentalism and not free from prejudice and bigotry.

**MacManus, Seumas:**

In Chimney Corners.....Doubleday, \$1.50

A Lad of Friels..... " \$0.75

Through the Turf Smoke.....Digby & Long, 2s 6d

The second tale records the annals of a Donegal hamlet



in O'Connell's time; a life-like and sparkling picture. The two other volumes form a collection of quaint Irish folk-tales.

**Maher, Richard Aumerle:**

- The Heart of a Man.....Benziger, \$1.35  
The Shepherd of the North.....Macmillan, \$1.35

Two powerful and virile stories. The first tells how, after many doubts and struggles, Jim Lloyd realizes that the Catholic Church is the truest friend of the working-man. The Shepherd of the second novel is Bishop Joseph Winthrop Alden, the protector and defender of the people. The plot hinges on the seal of confession.

**Manzoni, Alessandro:**

- The Betrothed.....Macmillan, \$1.50

One of the world's great novels, the idyll and the tragedy of the love of two simple villagers, a genuinely Catholic story in the highest sense of the word, and permeated with a thoroughly Catholic atmosphere; highly admired by Scott and Macaulay. The scene is in Milan and along the shores of the Lake of Como in the earlier part of the seventeenth century. The book reveals a deep insight into human nature and breathes the tenderest sympathy for the poor. The monk, Cristoforo, and Cardinal Federigo Borromeo are magnificently painted.

**Mark Twain:**

- Huckleberry Finn .....Harper, \$1.75

Rich in its racy humor; a genuine American story.

**Marryatt, Frederick:**

- Jacob Faithful.....Dutton, \$1.25  
Masterman Ready..... " \$1.25  
Mr. Midshipman Easy..... " \$1.25  
Peter Simple ..... " \$1.25

All descriptive of life in the English navy about eighty years ago. Racy sailor yarns of wrecks, sea-fights, en-

counters with savages, life on a desert island. The death of Masterman Ready is well worth reading.

**Melville, Herman:**

Moby Dick or the White Whale.....Estes, \$1.50

The finest sea story, perhaps, ever written, not excepting the best of Conrad and Clark Russell, Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast" nor even Cooper's "Pilot": the epic of the American whale-fisheries. Young and old will be thrilled with the adventures and tragic death of Captain Ahab who sails the seas to hunt the white-faced whale whose terrible jaws had sheared off his leg and made him a cripple for life. The style is not always felicitous, but when at its best, it is superb. And the crew that sailed with Ahab would be the envy of the Flying Dutchman himself.

**Miles, George H.:**

The Truce of God.....Benziger, \$0.60

Full of the romance and color of the Middle Ages. The lesson it teaches is very timely now.

**Mitford, Mary Russell:**

Our Village.....Macmillan, \$0.50

Delightful sketches of English rural life and scenery.

**Mulholland, Rosa:**

A Fair Emigrant.....Kegan Paul, 2s

Marcella Grace....." " 6s

Nanno.....Grant Richards, 3s 6d

Onora....." " 3s 6d

The Wild Birds of Killeevy.....Benziger, \$1.10

The most striking characteristics of these novels is a literary style of singular purity and grace and a quiet classic beauty very different from the flashy and gaudy style so much in vogue. "The Wild Birds of Killeevy" is one of the most pathetic tales of Irish life. "Marcella Grace" is dramatic in plot and incident.

**Navery de, Raoul:**

Idols—Captain Roscoff .....	Benziger, \$0.48
Captain Roscoff—Idols .....	" \$1.10
The Monk's Pardon .....	" \$1.00
The Treasure of the Abbey .....	" \$1.20

All remarkable for plot and invention; bristling with interest and incident. "The Monk's Pardon" is an historical romance of the Spain of Philip IV, with the famous painter Alonso Cano as one of the central figures. "Idols" is a mystery novel, intricate enough to satisfy the most exacting. The other two are stirring tales of the French Revolution; all thoroughly Catholic.

**Newman, John Henry:**

Callista .....	Longmans, \$1.25
Loss and Gain .....	" \$1.25

"Callista" unfolds the story of an African martyr of the third century; it is remarkable rather by the style and the psychological analysis of character than by stirring incident. There are splendid passages such as the description of the plague of locusts and the possession of Juba. In "Loss and Gain," which to a certain extent tells us the story of the author's conversion, there are glimpses of University life at Oxford, and a clear statement of the differences between Catholicism and the Church of England.

**Noble, Frances:**

Gertrude Mannering .....	Marlier, \$0.75
Not for This World Only .....	" \$0.75
The Temptation of Norah Leecroft.....	" \$0.85

Nobility of thought and perfection of draftmanship mark these novels; the story of Gertrude Mannering and Stanley Graham makes sacrifice seem almost easy.

**Norris, Frank:**

The Octopus .....	Doubleday, \$1.50
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**The Pit** .....Doubleday, \$1.50

Two powerful novels whose purpose is to show the brutalities of capitalists. Both are socialistic in tendencies and should be read with caution.

**O'Grady, Standish:****The Coming of Cuchulainn** .....Methuen, 3s. 6d.**The Flight of the Eagle** .....Benziger, \$1.10**The Gates of the North** ..... " \$1.10**Ulrick the Ready** ..... " \$1.10

The "Flight" tells in a narrative of power and vividness of the kidnapping of the great Hugh Roe O'Donnell and of his escape from Dublin Castle; time, the days of the Elizabethan domination in Ireland. "Ulrick" weaves the story of the battle of Kinsale and the siege of Dunboy into the history of O'Sullivan Ulrick in the last years of Elizabeth's reign. The other two volumes are a splendid prose-epic of the great national hero of Erin and his mighty doings. O'Grady's style is rich, harmonious; it rises at times to the "grand note." Like Gerald Griffin, O'Grady has done excellent work for the cause of Irish literature.

**"O. Henry" (Sidney Porter):****The Four Million** .....Doubleday, \$1.50**Roads of Destiny** ..... " \$1.50

Masterpieces of the short story, healthy in their moral lesson, full of pathos, wit and humor. The author loves the poor.

**Oldmeadow, Ernest:****Antonio** .....Century, \$1.30

The suppression of the monasteries in Portugal and the efforts of an exiled monk, who engages in the wine-trade in order to buy back his monastery. The style at

times is exceedingly beautiful; sympathetic descriptions of monastic life. But the plot is not convincing to Catholic readers.

**O'Reilly, John Boyle:**

Moondyne .....Benziger, \$1.10  
A stirring tale of the Australian bush.

**Page, Thomas Nelson:**

John Marvel, Assistant .....Scribner, \$1.10  
Red Rock ..... " \$1.10

Tales of the South. In "Red Rock," the Reconstruction period and the fortunes of "Red Rock" plantation; the negroes are sympathetically and the "carpet-baggers" sarcastically drawn. In "John Marvel," the friendships and the fates of three men who meet in a Southern college; a fine bit of social, economic and psychological analysis.

**Parker, Gilbert:**

A Ladder of Swords .....Harper, \$1.50  
The Seats of the Mighty .....Appleton, \$1.40  
Novels of adventure which are rich in dramatic movement.

**Parrish, Randal:**

My Lady of the North .....McClurg, \$1.50  
Virginia and the Shenandoah in the Civil War; a Federal hero and a Confederate heroine; Lee and Grant.

**Pater, Walter:**

Marius the Epicurean.....Macmillan, \$2.25  
The mental, moral and spiritual growth of a Roman, the friend of Marcus Aurelius and Galen. The style is of rare beauty, though at times of an evanescent and tenuous quality; the picture of Rome is rich in color. The hero does not embrace Christianity, but admires it and feels its influence. The incidents are few and the movement is slow.

**Paulding, James Kirke:**

The Dutchman's Fireside .....Scribner, \$2.50

Paulding was a collaborator with Washington Irving in the writing of "Salmagundi." The present work is thoroughly racy, American, and a faithful reproduction of the rugged but sound and healthy life of our early national period. The settlers, the Indians, the Yankees are keenly analyzed and vigorously portrayed.

**Peacock, Thomas Love:**

Crotchet Castle .....Dutton, \$0.50

Gryll Grange ..... " \$0.50

"Aristophanic Mockery" of what the author considered the extravagances of society marks his works, which at times satirize the clergy; here, however, the characters of Drs. Opimian and Folliott make up somewhat for earlier attacks by the author.

**Poe, Edgar Allan:**

Tales of Mystery, Imagination and

Humor .....Harper, each volume, \$0.75

These "tales" are the extreme development of the "Gothic" romance "with added analytic and psychological effect." Most of them are improbable and impossible, but they are all thrilling in spite of this fundamental error. They contain detective riddles, hallucinations, horrors, the mysteries of mesmerism, phantoms, tombs, charnel houses, torture pits, startling adventures, all admirably told, marvelously built up and inexorably marching to their conclusion. They are artistic, or rather, artificial. The art is not of the noblest kind, for it works extravagantly and rudely upon the sensibilities and the nerves; the effect is to leave us in a state of despondency and gloom. Poe is the forerunner of Wells, Conan Doyle and Jules Verne.

**Porter, Jane:**

The Scottish Chiefs .....Routledge, 2s.

Thaddeus of Warsaw .....Dutton, \$0.75

The Chiefs are Wallace and Bruce; their deeds of heroism in the War of Scottish Independence (1296-1314) are dramatically and vigorously told. The "Thaddeus" was suggested by events in the latter part of the life of Thaddeus Kosciusko. The hero of the book is Count Thaddeus Sobieski, the type of the faultless and highly idealized hero, gallantly fighting for his country, and later, when an exile in London, surrounded by an atmosphere of mysterious dignity and grandeur. Old-fashioned books, but healthy and invigorating.

**Radcliffe, Anne:**

The Mysteries of Udolpho .....Dutton, \$1.00

A real "thriller"; time, the end of the sixteenth century; theater of operations, a gloomy gorge and a grim old dungeon in the Apennines; haunted chambers, a mystic veil and a maiden in distress; descriptions highly colored, but not without beauty of the Pyrénées, the Alps and Venice.

**Reade, Charles:**

Hard Cash.....Scribner, \$1.25

Put Yourself in His Place..... " \$1.25

The first is a stricture on the cruelty practised toward the inmates of private lunatic asylums. "Hard Cash" is the fortune out of which the brave sailor, David Dodd, is swindled, thus driving him mad. "Put Yourself in His Place" is a strong plea for warmer sympathy between capital and labor. Reade's best-known novel, "The Cloister and the Hearth," cannot meet the approval of Catholics.

**Reid, Christian:**

A Child of Mary.....Ave Maria, \$1.25

A Daughter of the Sierras.....Herder, \$1.25

A Woman of Fortune.....Benziger, \$1.25

Heart of Steel.....Appleton, \$1.25

Vera's Charge.....	Ave Maria, \$1.25
The Wargrave Trust.....	Benziger, \$1.25
A Daughter of a Star.....	Devin-Adair, \$1.35
Weighed in the Balance.....	Church Supply, 1.50

Admirably written and artistically constructed stories which reflect faithfully Catholic life and practices.

**Sadlier, Mrs. James:**

The Blakes and Flanagans .....	Kenedy, \$0.75
The Daughter of Tyrconnell .....	" \$0.75
Willie Burke .....	Church Supply, \$0.40

In these volumes Mrs. Sadlier did pioneer work in the field of Catholic fiction, for which we should always be grateful.

**Scott, Sir Walter:**

Waverly .....	Macmillan, \$1.25
Ivanhoe .....	" \$1.25
Kenilworth .....	" \$1.25
The Legend of Montrose.....	" \$1.25
The Talisman.....	" \$1.25
Count Robert of Paris.....	" \$1.25
The Bride of Lammermoor.....	" \$1.25

Steeped in the romantic spirit of the Catholic Middle Ages, Scott is credited with being the morning star of the Oxford movement. All his novels bear the marks of genius, though some of them show indications of ignorant prejudice against the Church.

*To be continued in the April 8  
issue of the CATHOLIC MIND*